

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
INSE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
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O 031126Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1119

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA THREE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS CSCE SHUM EEWT HU US
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION PRACTICE

REF: (A) STATE 044821 (B) 77 BUDAPEST A-57 (C) 77 BUDAPEST A-71

1. SUMMARY: GOH HAS NOT YET PROVIDED REQUESTED REFTTEL (A) EMIGRATION STATISTICS. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON INFORMATION THE EMBASSY HAS OTHERWISE DEVELOPED BOTH PRIOR AND AFTER RECEIPT THAT CABLE. THE AVAILABLE FIGURES AND INFORMATION SHOW: (A) MODERATE EMIGRATION FROM HUNGARY TO COUNTRIES BOTH EAST AND WEST; (B) NO DISCRIMINATION IN EMIGRATION AGAINST JEWS AS JEWS; (C) NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING EMIGRATION PROBLEM CASES WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES REMAINS SMALL AND CASES ARE BEING CONTINUALLY RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. OVERALL EMIGRATION FROM HUNGARY. EMBASSY IS REPEATEDLY URGING MFA FOR REQUESTED EMIGRATION STATISTICS. MFA HAS EXPLAINED IT IS ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN THEM FROM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, SOME IDEA OF HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION CAN BE HAD ALREADY FROM WHAT CONSULAR DEPARTMENT CHIEF (GRESZNARYK) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOLD CODEL EILBERG LAST AUGUST (REF B). HE STATED THAT ANNUALLY ABOUT 2200 - 2300 HUNGARIAN EXPRESS DESIRE TO EMIGRATE. 92 PERCENT - 93 PERCENT OF THE REQUESTS ARE FOR REASONS OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. ABOUT 91 PERCENT - 92 PERCENT OF THE REQUESTS ARE GRANTED. THE RATE OF APPROVED EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS WAS ROUGHLY THE SAME FOR PERSONS GOING TO CAPITALIST OR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES - I.E. "NO POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION." REFUSALS, WHEN THEY OCCUR, ARE NOT FOR POLITICAL

REASONS. GRESZNARYK RELATED THAT REFUSALS OCCUR WHEN:

- (A) AN INTENDING EMIGRANT'S SPONSOR HAS "JUST RECENTLY" LEFT OR STAYED ABROAD ILLEGALLY - DEFECTED;
- (B) AN APPLICANT IS UNDER MILITARY OBLIGATION OR KNOWS MILITARY SECRETS;
- (C) GUARDIANSHIP AUTHORITIES CONCLUDE THAT EMIGRATION IS NOT IN A MINOR APPLICANT'S BEST INTEREST- THAT A CHILD'S UPBRINGING MAY BE BETTER ACCOMPLISHED IN HUNGARY.

3. GRESZNARYK CITED THE FOLLOWING EMIGRATION STATISTICS:

YEAR	NUMBER EMIGRES FROM HUNGARY TO CAPITALIST COUNTRIES	PERCENT OF APPLICATIONS GRANTED
1974	1435	90.4
1975	1404	91.5
	NUMBER EMIGRES FROM HUNGARY TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES	
1975	1052	93.3

4. JEWISH EMIGRATION. AS REPORTED REF (B), HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS TOLD CHAIRMAN EILBERG THAT THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON EMIGRATION AGAINST JEWS AS JES, WHETHER THEY WISH TO GO TO ISRAEL OR ELSEWHERE. JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS REPEATED THIS PERCEPTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EMBOFFS. JEWISH CONTACTS HAVE ADDED THAT FEW HUNGARIAN JEWS SEEK TO GO TO ISRAEL BOTH BECAUSE OF LACK OF CLOSE RELATIVES THERE AND RELUCTANCE TO EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO AN UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION AND DIFFICULT READJUSTMENT. JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS ESTIMATE EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AS ON THE ORDER OF TEN FAMILIES YEARLY; PERHAPS TWENTY FAMILIES OR SO GO TO THE UNITED STATES. THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT HAVE EXACT STATISTICS. (THE EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE STATISTICS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION TO THE U.S. SINCE VISA APPLICANTS ARE NOT ASKED OR REQUIRED TO DECLARE THEIR RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES. OUR GUESS WOULD BE THAT PERHAPS 10 PERCENT OF OUR IV APPLICANTS ARE JEWISH.) EMBASSY'S PERCEPTION IS THAT JEWS CAN APPLY FOR EMIGRATION AND EMIGRATE ON THE SAME BASIS AS ANY OTHER HUNGARINA, ESPECIALLY FOR PURPOSES OF CLOSE FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS.

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INSE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
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5. VALIDATING JEWISH COMMUNITY'S STATEMENTS AND OUR PERCEPTION
IS WHAT THE SWIS EMBASSY (RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAELI INTERESTS)
HAS TOLD US. THE SWISS PERCEIVE NO EMIGRATION
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS AS JEWS, AND RELATE THAT THE TOTAL
NUMBER SEEKING VISAS FOR ISRAEL IS SMALL. ALTHOUGH
NUMBERS THE SWISS HAVE PROVIDED US VARY SOMEWHAT FOR GIVEN
YEARS (REFLECTING, WE BELIEVE, STATISTICS COMPILED ON DIFFERENT
BASES BY THE SWISS EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST AND BY BERN), THEY
INDICATE TOTAL MINOR EMIGRATION. FIGURES PROVIDED ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

(A) SWISS FIGURES ON EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL PROVIDED 11/77:

APPROVED EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL:

1967 - 73	0
1973	10
1974	16
1975	13
1976	2
1977	9
TOTAL	50

EMIGRATION REQUESTS MADE BUT NOT APPROVED OR
APPLICANTS ABANDONED INTEREST:

1967	1
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1968	0
1969	6
1970	4
1971	13
1972	17
1973	15

1974	11
1975	3
1976	6
1977	4
TOTAL	80

(B) SWISS FIGURES ON EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL PROVIDED 3/78:

	PREVISAS ISSUED	VISAS ISSUED
1969	5	-
1970	5	4
1971	0	3
1972	20	8
1973	15	8
1974	13	6
1975	3	1
1976	10	5
1977	7	4
TOTALS	87	39

5. EMIGRATION PROBLEM CASES OUTSTANDING WITH OTHER WESTERN

COUNTRIES. VARIOUS EMBASSIES HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED TO US THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF OUTSTANDING EMIGRATION PROBLEM CASES:

UNITED KINGDOM 0 (A LONG-
STANDING DIFFICULT CASE WAS
RECENTLY RESOLVED.)

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CANADA 0 (FAMILY UNIFICATION CASES.
SOME NEW CASES WILL COME
UP SHORTLY)

CANDAD (CONT'D) 6-7 (DUAL-NATIONAL CASES -
NOT DIVIDED FAMILIES)

BELGIUM 0

HOLLAND 0

FRANCE 0

ITALY 0

DENMARK 0

FRG CA. 25 (BEING RESOLVED MORE-OR-
LESS STEADILY)

TOTAL CA. 32

THERE IS A CONSENSUS AMONG WESTERN EMBASSIES THAT GOH IS
WILLING TO LISTEN TO REPRESENTATIONS ON PROBLEM CASES, AND
THAT, WITH TIME, MOST PROBLEM CASES GET FAVORABLY RESOLVED.
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